UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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THIRD NATIONAL FISHING AND HUNTING SURVEY TO BEGIN IN JANUARY, 1966

The third nation-wide survey of hunting and fishing will begin in January, the Department of the Interior announced today. It will be carried out by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, under an agreement with Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Some 18,000 representative households will be visited to learn such facts as the number of fishermen and hunters, the kinds of animals and fish that interest them, and the ways sportsmen spend money in these pursuits.

Information gained will be made available to State fish and game administrators and others to assist them in determining sport fishing and hunting trends as the basis for planning decisions.

The survey was requested by the 1964 Annual Conference of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, which represents all of the State fish and game departments.

Funds for the survey will come from a Federal excise tax which sportsmen pay when they buy sporting arms and ammunition and certain kinds of fishing gear.

Proceeds of this tax are used to extend Federal aid to the States for fish and wildlife restoration projects on a matching-fund basis. The Federal aid program is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The first and second surveys were in 1955 and 1960. The most recent showed that more than 30 million Americans hunted and fished. They spent nearly \$4 billion and 658 million days for their recreation. The expenditure by anglers was \$3 billion; by hunters, nearly \$1 billion.

The combined outlay by hunters and fishermen in 1960 was more than the \$3.4 billion the entire Nation spent in the same year for radio and television receivers, records, and musical instruments.

The \$4 billion spent for hunting and fishing also was close to these other expenditures in 1960: Shoes and other footwear, \$4.5 billion; telephone and telegraph services, \$4.5 billion; drug preparations and sundries, \$3.6 billion.